

# Annual REPORT



Saitsa\*

# 2021/22



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# Advocacy & Research

## Research Transparency & Reports

In alignment with our governance changes, Saitsa continues to support our advocacy initiatives and Ends by conducting research and making the findings of that research easily available to the membership. Saitsa increased transparency by ensuring all public-facing reports are posted to our website, and promoting those reports in our communications to membership. Two recent reports were uploaded to the website:

“Falling short in Calgary Transit” and “Changing the Narrative: A report on affordable education in Canada.” Both reports will help to inform our future well-being projects by providing us insight into issues that are facing students, including the increasing challenges and pressures of affordability.

*Saitsa increased transparency by ensuring all public-facing reports are posted to our website, and promoting those reports in our communications to membership.*



## \* Advocacy & Research

Throughout the various closures of campus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Saitsa received a wide variety of concerns regarding the eventual return to campus. To better understand what students' concerns were, Saitsa conducted a survey of the membership and the results highlighted a

number of student-issues.

Findings from this report were also used to advocate to SAIT for alternatives/accommodations for on-campus attendance, and transition plans and information for returning to campus safely and with confidence.

### Membership Survey Student Identified Issues:



Students were worried about childcare while also returning to on-campus classes



There was a fear of exposure to Covid-19, and thus also potentially exposing loved ones at home as a result of on-campus exposure

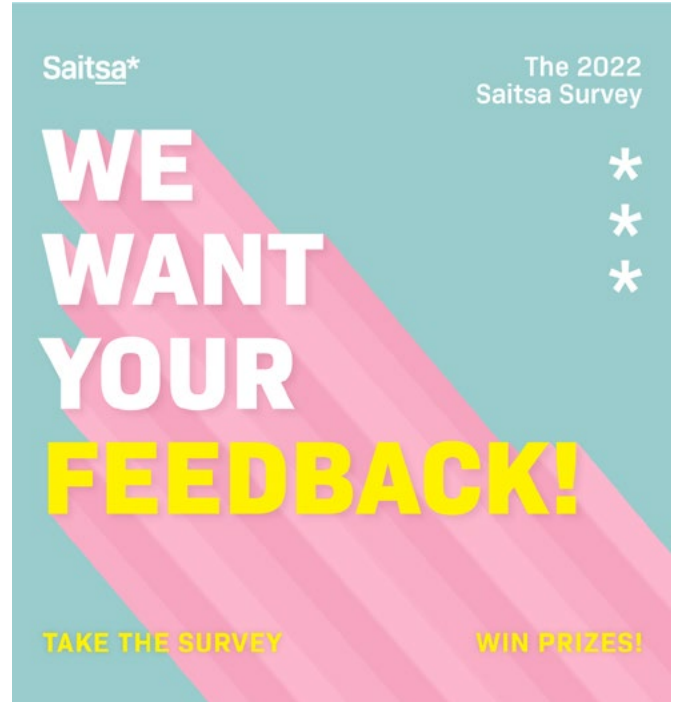


Students were concerned about having to re-arrange, and potentially lose, their work hours to align with on-campus requirements



## Annual Survey 2022

Each year Saitsa conducts an survey of our membership. The internal report developed helped Saitsa to start examining the wellbeing concerns of our membership. The report provided Saitsa with insights about the wellbeing climate at SAIT and the current experience of SAIT students. Additionally, it allowed Saitsa to examine themes providing us with areas in need of focus for our 2023 wellbeing project.



## Well-Being Project

Our well-being project is a multiyear project with planning beginning back in November of 2021. It includes two phases:

- 1 Wellbeing focus groups**
- 2 A substantial wellbeing climate survey of membership.**

In early 2022 an action plan was created that included a preliminary literature review on the climate of wellbeing for post-

secondary students. Additionally, the plan included timelines for both phases of the project along with the theory and methodology designs. The project will be using the dimensions of wellbeing recognized by Alberta Health Services to examine the state of wellbeing on campus, as well as explore student needs and current gaps in programming at SAIT. Once the project is complete it will be used to both inform Saitsa’s wellbeing programming, and to advocate to SAIT where appropriate to ensure gaps will be addressed.

## Wellbeing Ethics

As with any major research project, research ethics is required to move forward with Saitsa’s research projects. Saitsa received approval from SAIT’s Research Ethics Board for phase one of the project in June, 2022. This approval will permit Saitsa to move forward with facilitating focus groups in November 2022. The intention is to run focus groups with four

demographics: domestic students, indigenous students, international students, and LGBTQ2S+ students. The data will be analyzed and themed by Saitsa’s Research Coordinator in early 2023 and a report will be released in summer 2023 that will discuss any potential gaps and improvements needed as per the student’s lived experiences.



*Once the project is complete it will be used to both inform Saitsa’s wellbeing programming, and to advocate to SAIT where appropriate to ensure gaps will be addressed.*

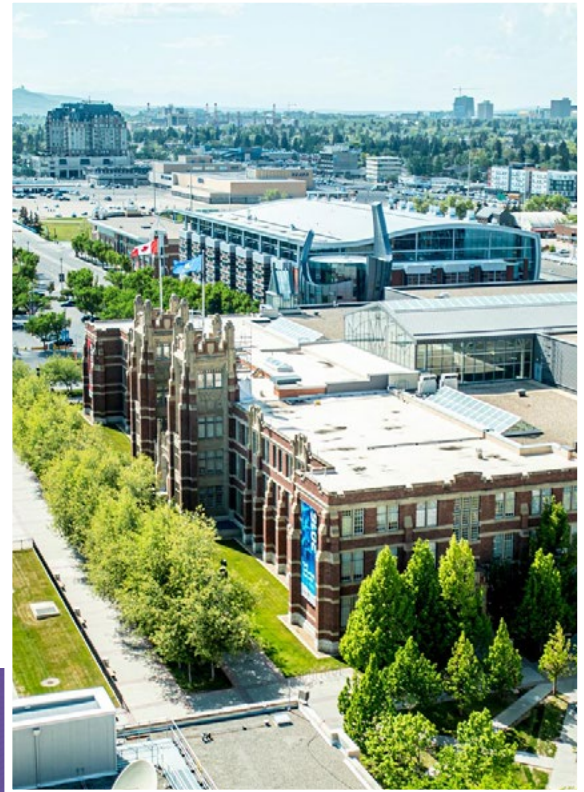
For a full review of all the reports listed above,  
please click here:

[Saitsa.com/Advocacy/Research](https://saitsa.com/Advocacy/Research)



# Financial Highlights

Most full-and part-time students, and apprentices pay Saitsa fees. Our goal is to serve you, the students. We do this by collecting student fees, which are utilized to advocate for your rights, and to provide quality services and programs to students outside of the classroom. The Post-Secondary Learning Act grants authority to Saitsa to collect fees in order to fulfill its mandate to represent and serve students.



The student fees we collect are divided into three funds:

**1**

**GENERAL FUND**

\$168

**2**

**RESTRICTED S.A. BUILDING FUND \***

*\* Not Charged during the 2021-2022 Academic Year*

**3**

**HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN FUND**

\$252

1

### GENERAL FUND

(\$168 fee) The SAIT Students' Association - General Fund was established to be Saitsa's operational fund. All of the business operations and all of the administrative and event expenditures of the Association are transacted through this fund. Operating funds are predominantly provided by student fees as determined by the Saitsa Board of Directors.

2

### RESTRICTED SA BUILDING FUND\*

The SAIT Students' Association - Restricted SA Building Fund was established to accumulate funds to provide for the purchase of a building. Students will provide the direction for the expenditures through future student referendums. Revenue is allocated from Student Fees as determined by the Saitsa Students Board of Directors.

*\* Not Charged during the 2021-2022 Academic Year*

3

### HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN FUND

(\$252 fee) The SAIT Students' Association - Health and Dental Plan Fund was established to operate the Student Health and Dental Plan. SAIT collects the students' health and dental plan fees on behalf of the Association. These fees are received from SAIT and deposited in the fund from which all contributions are paid to the benefits provider to adjudicate health and dental claims for the students. Contributions paid to the benefits provider are adjusted based on actual usage of the plan and any surpluses or losses at the end of the fiscal year will be reflected in the Health and Dental Plan Fund.



# Services Highlights

## Student Experience

With a new year, brought new exciting changes for the Student Experience department.

Even in the face of ongoing COVID restrictions and challenges, the student experience team tackled many obstacles to still provide valuable events, services and supports to SAIT students as they returned to campus throughout the semester.

Lets take a look at some of the areas where the team brought value to the student experience and exceeded expectations through their services in student clubs, supports, volunteering and the Tax Program.



## \* Services Highlights



### CLUBS

Through a diverse range of programming and initiatives, Saitsa Clubs fostered a sense of community among the SAIT students and broader community, integrating both academic and social aspects into their efforts.

**26**

Active Clubs

**168**

Event Proposals

### Notable clubs events/ programming:



McPhail School of Energy Clubs hosted a University transfer information session in collaboration with Energy Engineers from University of Calgary.



Legal Assistant Society collaborated with Calgary Food Bank to host a Food Drive on Campus. SAIT Accounting Society and Architectural Technology Students Association, held huge Industry Nights.



Volunteer works done by Legal Assistant Society and ISA - SAIT Student Board at Samaritan's Purse and at the Drop-In Centre.



The SAIT Power Club held couple of resume writing seminars for all Students in the WWTO, and PET programs in preparation for summer jobs.



Pride+ Club were awarded the SAIT President's Student Leadership Group/Club Award for their dedication to creating a safe and welcoming community for anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+ or an ally.

## \* Services Highlights



### **ADOPT-A-FAMILY**

Through the ongoing generosity of the SAIT Community, Saitsa was able to “adopt” 66 SAIT Student families, with 71 donors generously supporting the initiative. Adopt-a-Family supports students and their families with funds to ensure that the cheer is spread far and wide among students and their families; due to Covid-19 restrictions, instead of purchasing gifts for families, they were provided gift cards for gifts and food assist with spreading some joy during the holiday season.

**66**  
Families Adopted

### **Adopt-a-Family Stats:**



Of the 66 families, 16 identified as single parent households



71% of applicants indicated the cost of housing was one of their main reasons for applying for assistance, many stating that housing was costing upwards of 50% of their income

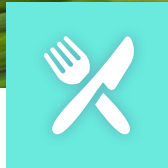


Nearly 1/3 were newcomers to Canada



115 children and dependent parents and siblings were supported via the generosity of the SAIT community

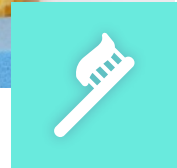
## \* Services Highlights



### **EMERGENCY FOOD FUND**

To support students experiencing financial hardships, the Emergency Food Fund provided student with grocery store gift cards to help ensure that securing a meal was not an additional stressor.

**79**  
Students Accessed  
the Program



### **WELLNESS BANK**

The Wellness Bank helps provide access to household items and hygiene items to SAIT students. Saita believes hygiene is a right, and not a luxury. Through this initiative, students have one less factor to consider during their student life journey.

**82**  
Students Accessed  
the Program

Check out some other great initiatives that support students!

[Saita.com/ResourceCentre](https://saita.com/ResourceCentre)



## TAX PROGRAM

Saitsa's Tax Program provides practical experience for students to have training through Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). This opportunity allows for student volunteers to complete fellow students or community members' taxes for free. This is a completely free service and allows for volunteers to gain valuable experience while serving their community and peers.



**53**

volunteers participated in the Tax Program 2022



**280**

tax returns submitted



**647**

total number of volunteer hours for the tax program



## VOLUNTEERS

Saitsa’s volunteering program provides opportunities for students to gain skills and experiences while providing meaningful interactions with those in the SAIT community. From our Expos and events, to our daily programming, Saitsa relies on our dedicated and compassionate volunteers to improve the student experience.

**278**  
Volunteers

### Highlights of the volunteer experience:



Several volunteers had multiple positions



5 positions (average) per volunteer



1174.5 Total hours for Volunteer Services Program (Fall 2021/ Winter 2022)

Administrative Team: 163  
Campus Safewalk: 76

Events Team: 145  
Marketing Team: 93

Mental WHAT: 120  
Tax Program: 133

## Governance

Saitsa continued our efforts to adjust and improve the governance of the association to ensure that our student leaders can focus on what's most important – student-led advocacy initiatives and the strategic leadership of Saitsa.

Our new governance structure has resulted in some extremely positive benefits to the student-leaders' experience, the governance of the organization, and the operationalization of the Board's vision. Under our new Policy Governance model, Saitsa methodically developed and amended policies and Ends Goals to best meet the needs of Saitsa and our members.



As the governance structure changes have been significant, the Board recognizes that it will take 2-4 more years for Saitsa to adapt to this new direction; as research on our members is conducted it is expected that the Ends will continue to be reviewed and amended to reflect current needs of SAIT students.

### The Board's End Goals are:



Members maintain a sense of overall wellbeing throughout their academic career



Students are able to successfully navigate their post-secondary educational experience.



Members will experience a high degree of engagement with their community.

## \* Services Highlights

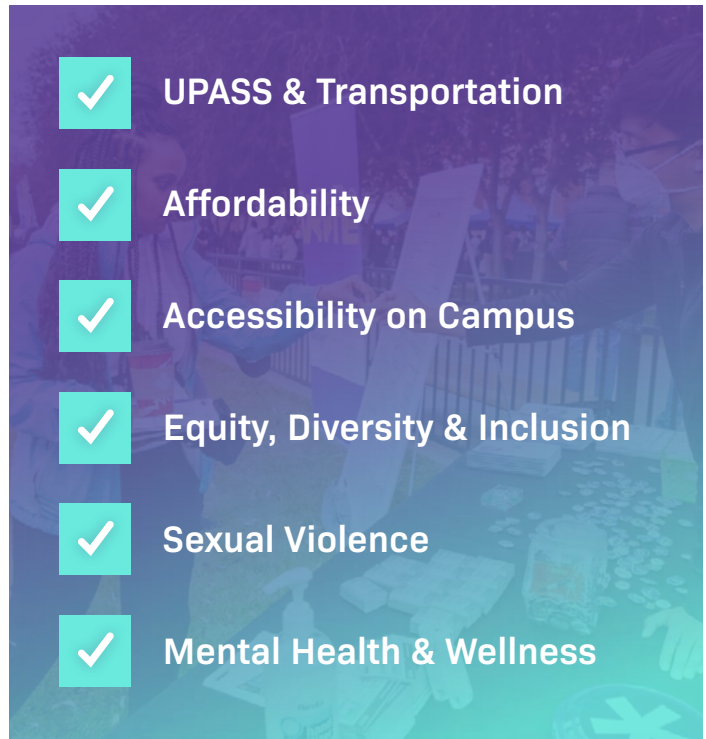
These Ends are operationalized by staff in the form of events, activities, services and supports. Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact the engagement activities and supports that Saitsa could provide due to health restrictions and campus closures. However, wherever possible Saitsa adjusted and interpreted the Ends to create meaningful and impactful experiences and supports for members.

Saitsa continues to see the positive impacts of the governance restructuring and we are excited to embark on the next steps to improving the SAIT student experience.

### **SAITSA ELECTION**

Across Canada Student Unions and Student Associations' election promotions and engagement experienced negative impacts of Covid-19 restrictions. In accordance with our Election Policies & Procedures, an uncontested election resulted in seven students being acclaimed into Director positions for Saitsa. As a result of the positions being acclaimed, no vote took place.

The Directors work tirelessly to represent students to all levels of government and continue their advocacy efforts on issues that matter to students such as:



Directors sat on a variety of SAIT councils, committees and working groups to support campus-wide initiatives and strategies that work towards supporting and improving the SAIT student experience. By contributing their student voice to these different groups, Saitsa's Directors helped to bring important student issues to the attention of administrators, support staff and faculty to enact change.





## Operations

Saitsa continued to run our operations when ever possible amidst partial campus closures, restrictions and reduced traffic on campus throughout a great deal of the year.

Despite this, and campus centre closure towards the end half of the 2022 semester, we provided worthwhile service to students, and laid the groundwork for the future of Saitsa operations.

## ODYSSEY

During the 2021-2022 Academic year, The Odyssey was once again, SAIT students' go-to spot for delicious custom-roast coffee, hot food, baked goods, and so much more! Year after year, the Odyssey is proud to represent sustainability, free-trade, and of course, student-friendly pricing.

Due to the ongoing redevelopment of the SAIT Campus Centre, The Odyssey had to unfortunately say goodbye to its beloved original location, but a relocation was immediately put in place for the following academic year.



## **GATEWAY RESTAURANT & BAR**

The Gateway, the restaurant, bar and concert venue that SAIT students have come to know and love opened (and closed) its doors for the last time during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Due to the ongoing redevelopment of the SAIT Campus Centre, the Gateway had no choice but to close its doors in the summer of 2022. The final year of operation was filled with great food specials, popular student events, and amazing concert performances from the likes of Charlotte Cardin – multiple Juno nominee.

## **GATEWAY EVENTS**

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Saitsa launched Gateway Events, our new external event/promotion and equipment rental operation. The goal of the Gateway Events team is to help carry on the legacy of the Gateway as a premier live entertainment company throughout the entire city of Calgary, and bring revenue right back into the pockets of SAIT students through campus events and programming.



Watch our 'Farewell' to the Gateway, click here:

**Thanks for the Memories!**

\* Services Highlights

**INTRODUCING: GATEWAY  
FOOD TRUCK**

The Gateway is going mobile! The Gateway Restaurant & Bar will be transforming into a food truck for the foreseeable future while the Campus Centre goes through its redevelopment project. During the 2021-2022 academic year we started branding, planning, and building out the Gateway Food Truck – a unique food and beverage venture that we hope to see hit the streets across the city by mid-2023.



View some of the exciting progress of the Gateway Food Truck, click here:

[GatewayFoodTruck.ca](https://GatewayFoodTruck.ca)



# Awards

## Student Experience Awards

Every year Saitsa awards those in the community who demonstrate excellence and support for others. Despite the continued partial-closure of campus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of Saitsa's awards were still able to be distributed to well-deserving SAIT students. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the following students were proudly recognized for what they contributed to the SAIT student experience.



**Saitsa  
Awards**



### 2021-2022 Recipients:

- \* **Supporter Award**  
Bernardes Toledo
- \* **DC Fleming Award**  
Jameson MacDonald
- \* **JM Parker Award**  
Jasmin K. Bhatti
- \* **Disruptor Award**  
Cassidy ElDarazi
- \* **Club of the Year Award**  
Pride+ Club



## Instructor Excellence Awards

A long-standing tradition at SAIT is Saitsa's Instructor Excellence Awards; Saitsa encourages students to nominate instructors who have gone above and beyond and demonstrated excellence in teaching. Saitsa received a record-breaking number of nominations this year as SAIT students showed their appreciation by nominating over 200 instructors!



✦ **Academic Services**  
Fara Shafee

✦ **MacPhail School of Energy**  
Nisha Midha

✦ **School for Advanced Digital Technology**  
Dan Stephenson

✦ **School of Business**  
A. McLean

✦ **School of Manufacturing & Automation\***  
Antony Chen

\*Antony also works under Core Academic Learner Services

✦ **School of Construction**  
Jishnu Subedi

✦ **School of Health & Public Safety**  
Jennifer Hugh

✦ **School of Hospitality & Tourism**  
Danielle Radke

✦ **School of Information and Communications Technologies**  
Danny de Castro

✦ **School of Transportation**  
Kyle Hegadus